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COUNTRY Germany (Russian Zone)

DATE DISTR. 21 October 1948

SUBJECT Purge of Thuringian Police

NO. OF PAGES 2

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NO. OF ENCLS.  
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.

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1. Source reports that all former soldiers with the rank of Unteroffizier or higher are being discharged from the police in Thuringia in compliance with SMA Order #240. The same applies to pre-1945 members of the police force and to former members of the SPD. They are being replaced by persons loyal to the SED; some of these have been drafted from factories on the recommendation of the FDGB or SED, others have been supplied by the FDJ.
2. In Meiningen the city barracks (formerly the barracks of the 32nd Infantry Regiment) are being used to house and train the new recruits. Pay rates are high; a Hauptwachtmeister, for example, receives 625 marks per month. All policemen receive ration card #1 plus a heavy workers' bonus. As far as possible the police are being quartered in barracks and fed in messhalls. Discipline is severe.
3. According to source the Thuringian border is guarded by fixed, two-man posts of German Border Police connected by Russian roving patrols. He claims the Russian patrols are afraid and do not venture out after dark. The Border Police search border crossers chiefly for Deutsche Marks.

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**Comment:** This description of the border guard is at variance with other reports. The statement that the Russians do not patrol at night is contradicted by most sources and appears improbable.)

4. Source reports the following personnel changes in the Thuringian police:
  - a. Rudi Rausch, former police president dismissed in the recent purge, has fled from his home and is being sought by the police. He has been succeeded by his deputy, Kleinjung.
  - b. Hermann Geissler, head of the criminal police, has been discharged because of sickness. Source assumes that Geissler was removed because of incompetence, but expresses the belief that Geissler has probably received a secret assignment from the SED.

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- c. Ernst Braun, head of the Schutzpolizei, has also been relieved. Source suggests that Braun has been given a new assignment, possibly in Saarbrücken.
- d. Rasmann, police chief in Kreis Meiningen, has been replaced by Grzan. Grzan spent several years in Buchenwald for KPD activity, became head of the Personnel Section in the Weimar Police after 1945, and enjoyed the favor of Ernst Braun.
- e. The entire faculty of the Erfurt Police School has been replaced by reliable Communists. The former director, Oberregierungsrat Richard Netzer, is now director of the Erfurt Civic Hospital. Police Captain Walter Schacht has been given a position in the postal service. The only officer allowed to remain on the faculty is Lt. Ferdinand Pohl, who had not been in the police service prior to 1945.

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